

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for examining the present application, for allowing Claims 41, 42, and 152, and for finding that Claims 6, 8, 27, 29-35, 37-39, and 43-53 contain allowable subject matter. With entry of this amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 24, 26-27, 29-35, 37-39, 41-53, and 152-156 remain.

The Examiner has objected to Claims 6, 8, 27, 29-35, 37-39, and 43-53 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has stated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 8. Claim 8 has been canceled as being redundant. Claim 25 has also been canceled to avoid conflicting composition ranges between currently amended Claim 1 and Claim 25. Similarly, currently amended Claims 6, 27, 38, 41, 43, and 50 have been rewritten as independent claims incorporating the limitations of the claims from which they previously depended. Dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 24, 26, 29-35, 37, 39, 42-49, and 51-53 are also in condition for allowance for depending from allowable base claims as well as for their own respective features, which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art. No new matter has been introduced by the instant amendments.

Applicants hereby add new Claims 153-156, all of which depend from currently amended Claim 6. The limitations in all four claims have been previously presented in claims that depended from Claim 1 and are added here to alter their dependency as a result of the amendment of Claim 6 to independent form. In the prior Office action response/amendment, dated March 12, 2007, they were presented as Claims 8 and 24-26. Accordingly, no new matter is introduced. As dependents from currently amended Claim 6, which was found by the Examiner to contain allowable subject matter, Applicants

believe that new Claims 153-156 are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons described by the Examiner as well as for their own respective features, which are neither shown nor suggested by the cited art.

Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Conclusion

For the reasons recited above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

With entry of this amendment, the number of independent claims has increased to eight. Accordingly, fees are due for five excess independent claims. When the application was originally filed, the applicants qualified for small entity status. The application has since been licensed and can no longer claim small entity status. The large entity fee for five excess independent claims is believed to be \$1,000 and is provided herewith. If any additional fees may be required in connection with filing this amendment and any extension of time, the Director is hereby authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-1275.

Respectfully submitted,



Allan C. Tuan
Reg. No. 55,689

Allan C. Tuan (K1-53)
Intellectual Property Legal Services
Battelle Memorial Institute
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
P.O. Box 999
Richland, WA 99352
(509) 375-6866